

FRANK T. SHAW HOUSE

~~BILLINGSLEA HOUSE~~187-189 EAST MAIN STREET

Although built independently and at slightly different times, the two buildings, 187-189, today present a fairly unified appearance, at least on their grey south facades which are united by window placement, cornice treatment, and, perhaps most effectively, by a bow front connector. The two main buildings were built just before the Civil War and remained twin L-shaped masses, open to the northeast, for another half century. It is in this form that the buildings appear in an 1877 plat of the City. Number 187 was for many years the residence of Dr. Frank T. Shaw and no. 189 was, for an equally long time, the residence and office of Dr. James H. Billingslea so the buildings were at one time unified in use. Around 1910, one Charles Dinst built the bow connector to house a restaurant, and thus created the physical unity the buildings still have today. Dinst had as a motto for his restaurant, "If your wife can't cook, don't divorce her, keep her as a pet and eat at the American Restaurant."

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

383
Curr ~~11/24~~
0703634404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Frank T. Shaw House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

187 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leeds K. Billingslea

Telephone #: 848-8250

STREET & NUMBER

218 Pennsylvania Avenue Extended

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 398

Folio #: 16

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☒ RUINS (Burned 11/76)
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Numbers 187-189 East Main Street read as a single building, that is, a single building of two three-story, three-bay boxes with a three-story, three-bay, bow front connection. However, this is deceiving, and, as all the sections have had very separate histories, they will be treated separately here.

Number 187 is a four-square stretcher bond building solidly in the Westminster tradition. Its south (Main Street facade rests quietly between its full, denticulated entablature and its low, coursed fieldstone foundations. The three windows on each of the second and third stories are all regularly placed and treated with three course gauged flat arches and white wooden sills; the only difference is in the paning - second story windows are 2/2 while those above are 2/1. Ground floor bays are also regularly placed in alignment with those on the upper floors, but the entire ground floor shows signs of having been recently done over - the wall's brick is smoother, a seam exists, and the windows (the central and western bays) have brick sills below their 2/2 panes. The entrance door, the easternmost ground floor bay, has a denticulated cornice (of exceptionally fine detail) resting on fluted pilasters, all of which surround a three-light transom and the recessed entrance which leads to three doors - one for the ground floor, one for the upstairs, and one for the bowed-section.

The east wall is a party wall with the bow connector.

The west wall was built at several different periods; this is readily, if not easily, visible as one peers down the 2-foot wide alley that separates it from its western neighbor. It is built in two sections - a 9 course common bond - 3 story, with a 7 course common bond - 2 story extension. The only window in the front section is in the middle of the second floor: it is 1/1 paned, with a white wooden sill and no arch or other enframing enrichment. There is a flush flat-capped chimney to the rear. However, traces of a chimney can be seen in the center of the roof, where it probably would have been if the roof were gable. Unfortunately, the chances for doing further research (on the third floor itself) have dimmed by the recent (November 14, 1976) fire that gutted the top floor. The rear section seems to be all of a piece, but this is misleading as, below the 3 steps corbelling that trim to unite the wall, a definite seam is evident two-thirds of the way back, making the original section 2 bays deep (2 second story 6/6 windows), with a 1 bay extension (1 similar window on the ground floor).

From the north, no. 187 shows how the building was I-shaped, as it appeared on the 1877 City plat. There is a perpendicular section with its gable-end roof facing north topped by a broad flat-capped flush chimney. Moreover, the western roofline, while of the same pitch, is longer than its eastern counterpart. The length is due, exactly, to a blind (but for a modern six panel cum fanlight door - the fanlight is part of the door) section of a

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1850	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although it seemed more sensible to divide separate descriptions for nos. 187 and 189, in terms of significance, the two might better be treated as a unit. After all, great pains have been spent to make the two seem a unit, at least on their Main Street facades. The two buildings were built independently, but about the same time (before 1860) - no. 187 already sold for \$2800 when Henry Norris bought the lot from Hester Ann Wolf on January 13, 1867 (Carroll County Deed 34, page 51); no. 189 was built by Jacob Reese between March 3, 1853 (when he bought the lot for \$355) and October 9, 1860 (when he sold the lot for \$3900 - deeds 14/537 and 27/318 respectively). They remained twin masses on the Main Streetscape for a half century: an 1877 plat shows 187 as an L-shape building, open to the northeast, and no. 189 as having its present form, complete with a small eastern office. Number 189 was used then as the "residence and office" of Dr. James H. Billingslea - 1887 City Directory. It was one Charles Dinst who built the bow connector, according to octogenarian lawyer Eugene Walsh, c. 1910-15 to house a restaurant he operated on the premises; Dinst had the motto: "If your wife can't cook, don't divorce her, keep her as a pet and eat at the American Restaurant."

So it was not until the Great War that the buildings achieved their present grey prominence. It is, in fact, as grey eminences that the buildings are thought of by today's Westminsterians; as such, the buildings have succeeded in demonstrating that the basic local form (3 bays, simple, clean lines) cannot be expanded forever without becoming dull! The Fletcher House, 256 East Main Street, is large, true, but its angular brick bulk is counter-balanced by its swirling wooden trim; there is nothing here to begin to act as a foil to the vast expanse of brick, and the irregularity of the windows. The "Westminster House" is a simple form and, when left in the right hands, i.e., those whose innate sense of proportion is unencumbered by pretensions (or who can't afford them) it is a style of great dignity, even late in the 19th century (e.g. 231 or 233 East Main Street). Here, however, it falls a bit flat.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the easterly section of lot 46 of the town of New London,
located on the north side of East Main Street, about 120' east of its
intersection with Center Street in Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

November, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

width frequently used in Westminster for such rear porches. In any event, the whole north wall is now covered with white stucco; whether this was done when the "porch" was filled in or not is unanswered. The older section of this facade has two 6/6 windows on each of its two floors.

As mentioned, no. 187 is linked to 189 by a three story bow front building. The north front of which is a large entablature width, taller than either 187 or 189. (The entablature is identical to those of its neighbors.) The ground floor of this section is filled by the modern many-paned bowed picture window. (The section is entered by 187's door.) The large window is topped by its own denticulated cornice which divides it from the stretcher-bond wall above. This wall is broken by six regularly placed elongated 1/1 windows (three per floor). The windows have four course gauged flat arches and white wooden sills and are thus similar, but slightly grander, than no. 187's.

The only other exposed facade of this section is its north facade, which presents three distinct floors, each of which has two, not three, bays. Those of the ground floor are 6/6 simply enframed windows; those of the third story are 1/1 windows whose gauged flat arches are 4 courses high. Between is a recessed porch with a three board railing; the porch sits on a one story recent infill, and is approached externally by an iron single flight fire escape. Nos. 187 and 189 are several score years older than the connector, which has only north and south walls; its east and west walls are the old walls of its neighbors.

3870



387

B-30

CARR 363, 364
187-189 E. Main St.
Westminster
S. Juncos
C. Veeh 12/76



CARR 363

187 E. MAIN ST.

WATERVILLE

N. JONES C. WOOD

2/77

83%



CARR 363

Bellinger wharf after
fire

204A

210"

8390

P. 11/21